

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 /080 W

-----040730Z 063684 /14

R 031455Z JAN 77

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8595

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, IS, JO, PLO

SUBJECT: REACTION TO SADAT'S PROPOSAL TO LINK WB STATE WITH
JORDAN

1. SUMMARY: SADAT'S REPORTED PROPOSAL TO LINK ANY WB STATE WITH JORDAN HAS PROVED TO BE A LITMUS TEST OF POLITICAL LOYALTIES OF WEST BANK LEADERS. PRO-JORDANIAN INDIVIDUALS HAVE OPENLY EXPRESSED PLEASANT SURPRISE WHILE EXTREME NATIONALIST SAY INSIDIOUS DEALS ARE BEING STRUCK BY THE ARAB STATES AT THE PALESTINIANS EXPENSE. MOST POPULAR, MAINSTREAM LEADERS HAVE RESPONDED CAUTIOUSLY BY RE-AFFIRMING THEIR SUPPORT FOR A PLO-LED INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE WITHOUT, HOWEVER, RULING OUT EVENTUAL LINKS WITH OTHER ARAB STATES. END SUMMARY.

2. SADAT'S STATEMENT TO THE WASHINGTON POST PROPOSING A LINK BETWEEN ANY WB STATE AND JORDAN HAS BEEN REPORTED
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PROMINENTLY IN BOTH ARABIC AND ENGLISH PRESS. THE JERUSALEM POST GLEEFULLY WROTE A VIRTUAL OBITUARY FOR THE PLO WHILE THE ARABIC PRESS CHOSE TO INTERPRET SADAT'S REMARKS IN THE CONTEXT OF ARAB UNITY, RATHER THAN AS A CHALLENGE TO THE PLO. THE PRO-JORDANIAN ARABIC DAILY AL QUDS NOTED IN ITS EDITORIAL OF DEC 31 THAT ANY PALESTINIAN STATE WITHOU LINKS TO JORDAN

WOULD BE TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON ISRAEL FOR ACCESS TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND WENT ON TO CALL FOR A SUMMIT INVOLVING EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN, SAUDI ARABIA AND THE PLO TO DEFINE THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE PALESTINIAN AND JORDANIAN LEADERSHIPS. THE MORE NATIONALISTIC PAPER ASHA'B JAN 2 EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE IN SADAT PERSONALLY AND ITS BELIEF THAT THE EGYPTIAN LEADER WOULD RESPECT THE PALESTINIANS' RIGHTS OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

3. ASHA'B ALSO CARRIED REACTIONS FROM THE MAYORS OF NABLUS, TULKARM, HEBRON AND RAMALLAH. AS IF IN CHORUS, ALL REPLIED THAT AN END TO OCCUPATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PLO-LED, FREE, INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE WAS THE FIRST PRIORITY AFTER WHICH MOVES TOWARD ASSOCIATION WITH JORDAN OR ANY OTHER ARAB STATE WOULD BE CONSIDERED. ONLY BETHLEHEM'S FREIJ DEVIATED FROM THE LITANY IN SUPPORT OF THE PLO BY EMPHASIZING THAT THE PEOPLE OF THE WB SHOULD ELECT THE NEW STATE'S GOVERNMENT WHICH COULD THEM CONFEDERATE WITH JORDAN. THE WB LEADERS CAREFULLY REFRAINED FROM CRITICIZING SADAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF TULKARM'S HANNUN WHO REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE CONSIDERED THE EGYPTIAN'S STATEMENTS A VIOLATION OF THE RABAT SUMMIT DECISION.

4. ANWAR NUSEIBEH, FORMER JORDANIAN GOVERNOR OF JERUSALEM AND A STRONG SUPPORTER OF THE KING, REACTED VERY FAVORABLE TO NEWS OF SADAT'S STATEMENTS. HE TOLD CONGEN THAT HE THOUGHT THE SUGGESTION OFFERED A WAY OUT OF THE DILEMMA POSED BY ISRAEL'S REFUSAL TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTENANCE A PLO-DOMINATED INDEPENDENT WB STATE. HE SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN SADAT AND HUSSEIM PRIOR TO THE STATEMENT.

5. ONLY STRONGLY ADVERSE REACTION ON WEST BANK HAS COME FROM THE MOST EXTREME NATIONALISTS WHO HAVE INTERPRETED SADAT'S STATEMENT AS A FURTHER ATTEMPT BY THE ARAB STATES TO UNDERMINE THE PLO AND FORCE PALESTINIANS TO SURRENDER THEIR RIGHTS. (COMMENT: WE EXPECT EVEN THESE DIE-HARDS WILL MODERATE THEIR VIEWS IN LIGHT OF THE SURPRISINGLY MILD REACTION REPORTED FROM PLO SPOKESMEN.)
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: WEST BANK, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977JERUSA00009
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770002-0944
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770186/aaaacwsq.tel
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: d1e1e4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3674054
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO SADAT'S PROPOSAL TO LINK WB STATE WITH JORDAN
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, IS, JO, PLO, STATE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d1e1e4dd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009